

PATENT
Serial No. 10/023,110
Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on January 25, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing multimedia services to digital television receiving apparatus, ~~characterized by the method comprising the steps~~ acts of:

providing to the receiving apparatus advance information related to the scheduled broadcast time of material to be broadcast;

causing the receiving apparatus to connect in advance of the scheduled broadcast time to receive multimedia material related to the material to be broadcast from a source of such multimedia material;

providing the receiving apparatus with the capability to perform internet searches for information related to the material to be broadcast, wherein search criteria for the internet searches

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is formulated based on data included in an electronic program

guide; and

causing that material to be cached.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 and further comprising the ~~step~~act of providing an indication during broadcast of the said material to be broadcast that additional multimedia material is available.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the indication is visual.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~in which~~wherein the material to be broadcast is a scheduled television program or an advertisement to be broadcast during a scheduled program and the advance information is provided to the receiving apparatus by an electronic program guide facility.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~in which~~wherein the material to be broadcast is a television program or an

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advertisement and the advance information is provided to the receiving apparatus by a broadcaster.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~in which wherein~~ the advance information relates to a pre-determined number of the viewer's favorite programs.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the multimedia material is received via the Internet and in which the availability of multi-media material is indicated by a URL.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, ~~and further~~ comprising the ~~step act of~~ providing an indication during broadcast of the said material to be broadcast that additional multimedia material is available, wherein said URL is inserted into a broadcast stream to determine when said indication is to be provided to the viewer.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~in which wherein~~ the multi-media material is viewable simultaneously with the

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broadcast program or advertisement by means of a split screen or screen insert.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein received and cached multimedia material related to the material to be broadcast is time-locked so as to be available to a viewer only at certain times.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving apparatus has a set-top-box facility.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Digital~~ A digital television receiving apparatus comprising:

interface means for connecting to an information resource;

storage means, ~~characterized in that~~ means;

wherein the receiving apparatus is configured to receive in advance information related to the scheduled broadcast time of material to be broadcast and to connect via the interface means to the information resource in advance of the scheduled broadcast time to receive multimedia material from the information resource

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related to the material to be broadcast and to cache said received multimedia material in the storage means; and

an internet search mechanism operatively coupled to the receiving apparatus that is capable of performing internet searches for information related to the material to be broadcast, wherein search criteria for the internet searches is formulated based on data included in an electronic program guide.

13. (Currently Amended) The receiving apparatus of claim 12, and further comprising an electronic program guide, wherein the material to be broadcast is a scheduled television program or an advertisement to be broadcast during a scheduled program and the advance information is provided to the receiving apparatus by the electronic program guide.

14. (Currently Amended) The receiving apparatus of claim 12, ~~and further comprising an~~ wherein the electronic program guide is arranged to store information relating to forthcoming programs, the guide being further arranged to initiate the receiving apparatus to search one or more information resource for program-related

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material.

15.(Original) The receiving apparatus of claim 12 wherein the digital television apparatus is in the form of a set-top-box and further includes an output for providing an output signal to an output display means.

16.(Original) The receiving apparatus of claim 12 wherein the information resource is Internet based.

17.(New) A method of providing multimedia services comprising the acts of:

receiving advance information related to scheduled material to be broadcast; and

allowing access to said advance information at designated times relative to broadcast of said scheduled material or in response to a signal from a broadcaster of said scheduled material.

18.(New) The method of claim 17, wherein said designated times include a first time for allowing view of a first portion of

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said advance information before said scheduled material is broadcast, a second time for allowing view of a second portion of said advance information during broadcast of said scheduled material, and a third time for allowing view of a third portion of said advance information after said scheduled material is broadcast.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising the act of searching a network for additional information related to the scheduled material to be broadcast using a search criteria formulated based on data included in one at least of an electronic program guide and a user profile.

20. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a receiver configured to receive advance information related to scheduled material to be broadcast; and

a processor configured to allow access to said advance information at designated times relative to broadcast of said scheduled material or in response to a signal from a broadcaster of said scheduled material.

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21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said designated times include a first time for allowing view of a first portion of said advance information before said scheduled material is broadcast, a second time for allowing view of a second portion of said advance information during broadcast of said scheduled material, and a third time for allowing view of a third portion of said advance information after said scheduled material is broadcast.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said processor is further configured to search a network for additional information related to the scheduled material to be broadcast using a search criteria formulated based on data included in at least one of an electronic program guide and a user profile.